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Slukhay On Air Defense, PVO Troops

...Following the end of World War II, the imperialist states, continuing to implement an aggressive policy, are continuously improving means of air and space attack. They include ballistic and cruise rockets with various ranges of operation, rocketcarrying submarines, rocket-carrying aircraft, and also artificial earth satellites and other space devices.

In relation to this, the role and mission of the PVO Strany Troops and their responsibility for safeguarding the air space of our motherland has sharply increased. They are required to defend the economy and population of the country against the strikes of the enemy air and space forces, to safeguard the normal vital activity of the Soviet state, and to protect the combat capability of its Armed Forces.

The PVO Strany Troops were separated into an independent branch of the Armed Forces owing to the importance of the missions they accomplished. The Communist Party and the Soviet government are undertaking all measures to arm them with modern combat equipment capable of conducting a successful fight against any means of air and space attack....

Therefore, through the efforts of our scientists and designers, surface-to-air rocket complexes were created and replaced the antiaircraft artillery. When this complex combat equipment was put into the troops' armament, the personnel met it with hesitancy which is completely explainable. How would the rockets react? Would they be a worthy replacement for the antiaircraft guns which had been tested in battle? Is there sufficient knowledge and ability to master their application in a short period of time?

Days and months passed. The commanders and political workers who had gone through the hard school of the Great Patriotic War, while being guided by the party and komсомол organizations, aroused the masses of servicemen to successfully master the newest equipment. In the beginning servicemen who had excellently mastered the awesome weapons emerged, then rated specialists, specialists of higher classes and finally masters emerged....

The Soviet surface to air rockets also proved themselves to be outstanding in fighting US airplane pirates who are dropping bombs and napalm on the peaceful cities and villages of Vietnam.

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The modern means of air and space attack are posing new and very complicated problems for air defense. The appearance of nuclear weapons with an unprecedented destructive power, and the appearance of ballistic and cruise rockets of various ranges were required so that modern air defense would be not only antiaircraft but, primarily, anti-rocket (ne tol'ko protivsamoletnaya, no prezhdе vsego protivoraketnaya).

The reliable means of combating enemy rockets were created, as a result of the tireless concern of the Communist Party and the Soviet government for strengthening the defense capability of the country. Now our PVO Troops in co-operation with the PVO forces and means of the Ground Troops, the Navy, and the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries are capable of successfully accomplishing their main mission: to reliably protect the territory of the countries of the socialist camp against nuclear strikes and against any means of air and space attack of the aggressors (nadezhno prikryt' territoriyu stran sotsialisticheskogo lagerya ot yadernykh udarov, ot lyubukh sredstv vozdushno-kosmicheskogo napadeniya agressora).

The main combat might of the PVO Troops of our country consists of qualitatively new arms of service: air defense troops and rocket-carrying fighter-interceptors. The combat capabilities of the weapons of PVO troops make it possible to destroy all modern means of air and space attack at maximum ranges, high and low altitudes, and supersonic speeds of flight. For this, the results of their actions do not depend on the time of year or day, the meteorological conditions or radio interference....

"From Guns To Rockets",
by Col. I. A. SLUKHAY

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